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In some specimens the perforation or umbilicus at the apex of the pileus is rather large, with a broad margin, giving a truncate appearance such as is ascribed to the species; but in many specimens the apex is more rounded or obtuse, and would not be regarded as truncate. The apical perforation, which in other species communicates with the interior of the stem, in this one is closed, at least in recently developed specimens, although specimens are sometimes found in which the closing membrane has disappeared and the pileus is clearly perforate. This membrane, however, when present, is so depressed or sunk below the surface that it is liable to be overlooked. It makes the pileus umbilicate rather than perforate. Possibly it was this peculiarity of structure that led Rev. C. Kalchbrenner in his paper on New or Little-known Phalloidei, p. 16, to place this species with the *Cynophalli*. Whether this and the other peculiarities of structure already pointed out warrant the separation of this species from the other *Hymenophalli* or not I leave for other mycologists to decide. The noticeable characters of this species may be grouped together thus :

Bulb ovate, pinkish, sometimes marked by a few irregular, elevated lines or wrinkles, after rupturing slightly split on the margin; pileus conical or ovate-conical, at first covered, except at the apex, by the olive-green spore-stratum, minutely cellular-spongy, umbilicate at the apex, whitish when denuded; stem cellular-spongy, hollow, subcylindrical, tapering upwards within the pileus and surrounded at the top by a short, entire, pendent membranous veil, also tapering downwards within the bulb and surrounded at the base by a similar cup-shaped veil, whitish; spores narrowly elliptical, .00016'—.0002' of an inch long, about half as broad.

Plant 4-6 inches high, pileus 1-1.5 inch high, stem 5-7 lines thick. The plant has a wide range. Specimens have occurred in South Carolina, Wisconsin, Ohio, Connecticut, Vermont and New York. It has been found growing in fallow land, among rubbish in open waste-places, among fallen leaves in dry woods and in "cedar swamps." It occurs from September to December. It was discovered by Mr. Ravenel in 1846, but appears to have remained unpublished till 1873.

EXPLANATION OF THE PLATE.—Fig. 1, a fully developed plant of *Phallus Ravenelii*, B. & C. Fig. 2, the upper part of a stem and its denuded pileus. Fig. 3, vertical section of a plant showing the interior surfaces of the bulb, stem and pileus, and the position of the two parts of the veil. Fig. 4, six spores x 400.

A New Crucifer from Mexico.

By M. E. JONES.

DRABA UNILATERALIS, n. sp.—Annual, branching at the base and sending out numerous, horizontal, very slender, runner-like branches, 3'-10' long, which are leafless except at the very base. Leaves obovate or oblanceolate, petioled (except the uppermost), sometimes 1-3-toothed, densely stellate-pubescent. Sometimes the whole plant is densely stellate-pubescent, even to the sepal and pods; but usually the ends of the longest branches, with their flowers and pods, are

glabrous. Petals oblanceolate, white, $\frac{1}{2}$ longer than the sepals. Pods about 2" long and $1\frac{1}{2}$ " wide, twisted, oval or obovate, nearly twice as long as the stout, reflexed or widely spreading pedicels, arranged about 1' apart all along the stem with pedicels turned so that the pods are all on the lower side of the stem, making the raceme appear scorpioid. The stems show a decided tendency to twine, but they seldom make a complete loop.

This unique crucifer, which scarcely seems like a *Draba*, I discovered about fifteen miles south of the California line in Mexico about sixty miles from San Diego, on April 7th, 1882.

I have many specimens of a form of *Clematis ligusticifolia* with perfect flowers. The plant grows along the coast, north of San Francisco.

The Tuckahoe.—In Virginia and in Maryland this name is applied exclusively to that curious subterranean tuber, *Pachyma cocos*. This tuber is found, I believe, in nearly all the Southern States, and as far north as Kent County, Delaware. In Virginia and in Maryland, when large, they are frequently roasted and eaten with salt by the negroes. This use of them they learned from the Indians, in whose "bill of fare" the tuckahoe, so-called, was quite an important element. It grows several feet below the surface of the ground and is met with only by accident, as in clearing up the land and in making ditches in damp places. When first taken from the earth the tubers are soft enough to be cut with a knife. In shape, they vary, some being oblong like a sweet potato, others globose and, with their coarse brown bark, looking like a cocoanut. They also vary in size; I have seen them as large as a man's head. The internal substance is white, has a fungoid odor and a taste that I have found mild and pleasant, although it has been described as acrid.

The tuckahoe is most mysterious in its habits. There is at no time any external indication of its existence beneath the surface of the ground. Hogs are very fond of it, and root it up as they do the truffle. The internal substance contains an abundance of branching filaments; but no fertile form of the plant can be found, though some effort has been made to do so the past two seasons.

Tradition says that the Indians had another mode of preparing it, by drying and pounding as they did corn, then converting it into bread.

Baltimore, Md.

MARY E. BANNING.

(By request, we append the following additional notes on a production that has always been a puzzle to botanists, and the origin of which still remains a conjecture.

Tuckahoe occurs from New Jersey southward to the Gulf of Mexico, and westward to Kansas. It is usually found at planting time, when it is turned up by the plow. It often gives no indication of having been attached to anything, although occasionally (especially in the West) it has been found apparently parasitic on the roots of large trees; and, again, detached specimens have been found with a piece of root enclosed in the mass. It was first brought to the notice